Feeder Level at Farakka

879. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that constant fluctuation in the flow of water through the Feeder Level at Farakka (West Bengal) may cause damage to the Feeder Canal itself;

(b) whether this situation has arisen out of the water sharing agreement with Bangladesh;

(c) if so, whether the Government consider it necessary to take up the matter with Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Water sharing agreement with Bangladesh necessitates alternate increase and decrease at ten day intervals. Sudden fluctuations beyond certain limits may cause damage to the Feeder Canal as the Feeder Canal is an un-lined canal.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has initiated action and held discussions with Bangladesh on the adjustments to be made for the sharing arrangements so as to avoid damage to the Feeder Canal. Both sides agreed to take up the above issues at the appropriate level of the two Governments.

Loss of Ship in Mumbai Sea

880. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR. M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether ship named "M.V. ARCADIA PRIDE" has been drowned in the Mumbai Sea recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of persons died and value of property lost;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e) Yes Sir. On 19th July, at about 9.40 A.M., "M.V. ARCADIA PRIDE" started dragging anchor and while she was attempting to reanchor, she took a heavy list, capsized and sank. Out of 33 crew members on board, 9 persons were rescued, 5 bodies recovered and remaining 19 persons are presumed to have died. Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Mumbai, is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the casualty. The inquiry report is expected to throw light on the extent of loss of property.

Brain Drain

881. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any account of the loss caused to country due to brain drain; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Some Indian Scientists, Engineers and Doctors migrate to other countries for jobs and higher studies. However, no record of such migrants is maintained.

Restructuring of Army

882. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Army needs restructuring" appearing in the *Statesman* dated June 26, 1997;

(b) if so, whether there is an urgent need to restructure the army;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of changes proposed in the functioning of the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The organisational structure of the Armed Forces has been determined according to our requirements. All developments having bearing on our security are constantly watched and assessed and appropriate restructuring in the forces is effected whenever considered necessary. This is a continuous process. Armed Forces are also being modernised with a view to equipping them with the state-of-the-art arms and equipment. It will not be in the interest of national security to reveal further details.

Items Introduced in Canteen Stores Department

883. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new items introduced in the Canteen Stores Department during the last 12 months;